

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION W.D.G.S.

MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT

ECUADOR

Subject: Final Demarcation of Ecuador-Peru Boundary

BID No. 3165-0500

From M.A. Ecuador Report No. R130-45 Date 24 Jul 45

Source and degree of reliability:

Source: Official announcements, press, personal observation
Reliability: A-2

SUMMARY

1. Final settlement of Peru-Ecuador border dispute announced
 2. Ecuadorians interpret final decisions as favoring them.
 - a. Line determined in southern Oriente
 - b. Confluence of Yaupi, Santiago rivers marked
 - c. Curaray-Yasuni line traced
 - d. Lagartococha line clarified
 3. Report of Brazilian expert's decisions believed correct
 4. Ecuador occupies demilitarized zone in El Oro
 5. Ecuadorian territory now estimated at 102,244 sq. miles
 6. Presidents of Peru, Ecuador exchange notes
 7. Ecuadorian reaction generally favorable
 8. TOBAR Donoso defends his acceptance of Rio Protocol
 - a. Cites pressure from mediating powers
 - b. Points out danger of loss of more territory
 - c. Explains Ecuadorian military impotency
 9. Comment
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1. On 15 July the Ecuadorian press announced that the Brazilian technical expert, Captain Braz DIAZ de Aguiar had delivered his decision regarding the few remaining areas under dispute by Ecuador and Peru in the boundary demarcation which grew out of the 1942 Rio Protocol. In announcing the final settlement of the boundary dispute, Manuel GUZMAN Polanco, Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, stated that the final decisions were favorable to Ecuador and that the Brazilian expert's findings showed that the views held by the Ecuadorian Foreign Office were completely justified.

2. The complete text of DIAZ' findings has not yet reached Quito, but the Ecuadorian Ambassador in Rio, Dr. José Vicente Trujillo, cabled a summary of the results, which the Ecuadorians have interpreted as favoring them. The Ecuadorian version of the findings is as follows:

a. In one disagreement over the boundary in the Oriente region it has been determined that the line shall run from the source of the San Francisco river through the "divertium acquarum" between the Zamora and Santiago rivers to the confluence of the Yaupi river.

b. In another issue it has been determined to rectify the marker of the confluence of the Yaupi and Santiago rivers, leaving for Ecuador an area in which has been located the Peruvian detachment of Cahuide.

c. It has also been determined from what point on the Curarau river the geodesic line to the mouth of the Yasuni on the Napo should begin.

d. As regards differences over the Lagartococha river line, it is understood that Ecuador will gain considerable territory since the line follows the Zancudo quebrada and from there goes to the Guepi river.

3. Press reports, quoting the Peruvian Foreign Office, indicate that the above version of DIAZ' report is substantially correct.

4. Even before the announcement of the completion of the boundary demarcation the Ecuadorian Ministry of Defense ordered the "Tungurahua" infantry battalion in Quito to occupy the formerly demilitarized zone in El Oro province. The "Tungurahua" unit is currently stationed in the Machala-Santa Rosa-Arenillas area of El Oro province. Ecuador's right to occupy this area as well as others had been decided previously. Ecuador has not yet re-established garrisons in the southwestern section of the frontier from the mouth of the Capones to the parallel of 4 degrees 30 minutes south on the "El Condor" cordillera. On 8 June of this year Ecuador had formally occupied the position of Vargas Guerra, located on the left bank of the Morona river at the confluence of the Undamangosiza and Cangaime rivers. This position had been returned to Ecuador by an agreement reached earlier in the year and Perú had completely evacuated the position by late April.

5. As a result of the rearrangement of the border, Ecuador's territory is now estimated to be about 264,880 square kilometers, (102,244 sq. miles) although no definite figure can be given until the exact new border line is surveyed.

6. After the announcement of the final settlement of the border dispute the Presidents of Ecuador and Perú exchanged friendly notes expressing satisfaction with the settlement of the dispute and voicing the hope that friendly relations between the two countries would prevail in the future. The Ecuadorian government, through President VELASCO, and through the Foreign Office, also expressed appreciation to the Brazilian government for its initiative and assistance in settling the dispute.

7. Ecuadorian reaction to DIAZ' final decisions was generally favorable. Both press and public, while still bitter over the Rio Protocol itself, appear well satisfied with the fairness with which the Brazilian expert acted.

8. Three days after the announcement of the final settlement, the Ecuadorian press printed a summary of a voluminous book recently published by Dr. Julio TOBAR Donoso, who was Ecuadorian Foreign Minister at the time of the signing of the Rio Protocol. Dr. TOBAR's book is called "The Peruvian Invasion and the Protocol of Rio de Janeiro" and is essentially a lengthy and detailed justification of the Foreign Office's acceptance of the Protocol. Dr. TOBAR felt compelled to write this defense of himself because the recent Constituent Assembly had virtually accused him of treason for agreeing to the Protocol. In essence Dr. TOBAR says Ecuador had no alternative but to accept the protocol for the following reasons:

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a. The mediating powers pressed Ecuador heavily to accede, saying that this would be the last chance that would be offered Ecuador for a peaceful settlement of the border conflict.

b. If the agreement had not been accepted Perú would have exacted a much sterner settlement. In a few days Perú might have taken Guayaquil, and Ecuador might even have ceased to exist as an independent country.

c. From a military standpoint Ecuador was incapable of offering any resistance to further Peruvian aggression.

9. Comment: The final settlement of the Ecuador-Perú border dispute should help ease the strained relations between these two countries. However, the Rio Protocol itself will for years be a source of discontent in Ecuador, and nationalistic elements in this country will see to it that Ecuadorians do not forget the Protocol.

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